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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 4 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that at the meeting of Heads of State and Government of the States participating in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), held in Lisbon on 2 and 3 December 1996, in addition to other problems, the issue of a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was discussed.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference put forward an initiative for the inclusion in the final Lisbon Summit Declaration of a special paragraph setting forth the basic principles for a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which were supported by all the members of the OSCE Minsk Group.

The Republic of Armenia vetoed the inclusion of this text in the declaration.

Nevertheless, Mr. Flavio Cotti, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, made a separate statement at the summit on the issue in which he assessed the state of the peace process at the current stage and set forth the position of the OSCE Minsk Group and the entire European community concerning the basic principles on which a settlement should be based.

This statement by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office is an integral part of the Lisbon Summit Declaration (see annex).

I request you to have this letter and its annex circulated without delay as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) E. KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

[Original: English]

Statement made by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at the Summit of the Organization, held at Lisbon on 2 and 3 December 1996

You all know that no progress has been achieved in the last two years to resolve the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and the issue of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I regret that the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference to reconcile the views of the parties on the principles for a settlement have been unsuccessful.

Three principles that should form part of the settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict were recommended by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group. These principles are supported by all States members of the Minsk Group. They are:

(a) Territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic;

(b) Legal status of Nagorny Karabakh defined in an agreement based on self-determination that confers on Nagorny Karabakh the highest degree of self-rule within Azerbaijan;

(c) Guaranteed security for Nagorny Karabakh and its whole population, including mutual obligations to ensure compliance by all the parties with the provisions of the settlement.

I regret that Armenia could not accept this. These principles have the support of all other participating States.

This statement will be included in the Lisbon Summit documents.